

Office of the Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

FEB 27 1997

2/20/97

FCC MAIL ROOM

CS Docket No. 97-55

Dear FCC,

I appreciate the opportunity to file this formal comment concerning the ratings system recently implemented by the television industry.

It is my view that the age-based system that has been adopted by the television industry is not adequate to accomplish the goal for which it was implemented. There are several ways that an age-based system fails, and I would like to draw your attention to two of them.

The first problem is that it is administered by the television industry itself. If the goal is to protect our children from explicit sex, violence, and language content, then the public would be well served by having an independent body overseeing this function. We cannot reasonably expect "the fox to guard the hen house". Whatever ratings system is implemented, it must be administered by those who have the best interests of America's children as their motive. The television industry is incapable of rating the content of their own productions, because profit is their primary motive.

Secondly, a poor ratings standard is worse than no ratings system at all. The current age-based system gives no guidelines concerning the offensive *content* of the shows. If we don't specifically address what is offensive in a given show's *content*, then all we are doing is giving the television programmers a shield to hide behind when consumers are offended at what television contains. The age of the viewer is relatively insignificant at this point. Offensive content is offensive content, for adults as well as children. There should be no double-standard.

Instead of the current age-based system, a better plan would be a content-based system administered by individuals who are fully independent of TV production and profits, who have high moral and ethical standards which flow from the Judeo-Christian faith upon which this nation was founded.

Traditionally, parents have been the primary filter for protecting America's youth from inappropriate TV viewing. In view of the relatively weak state of the modern American family, it becomes all the more important for the FCC to implement TV ratings which truly offers *all* viewers protection from the daily bombardment of explicit sex, violence, and language which characterizes much of current television programming.

The best solution is for the television industry to quit broadcasting explicit sex, violence, and language. Until that unlikely event happens, it is up to good and moral people to prevail in this effort of determining what is appropriate for public television viewing.

I urge the FCC to implement content-based ratings, which afford Americans the *most* protection possible.

Sincerely,



Carlotta Ott
924 Ellston Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80907-4138

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Sincerely,

Phil & Cindy Stagg

Mr. & Mrs. Phil Stagg
11765 West Cadillac Road
Cadillac, MI 49601

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Sincerely,

Edward L. Swoverland
Crystal L. Swoverland
Edward L. & Crystal L. Swoverland
1901 Division Street
Mishawaka, IN 46545

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Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Don Patterson

Mr. & Mrs. Don Patterson
P.O. Box 39212
Indianapolis, IN 46239

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1050 West Sandtown Rd.
Marietta, GA 30064
February 24, 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Mass Media Bureau
Washington, DC.

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Gentlemen:

I wish to protest the use of the new rating system as an excuse to show "anything goes" on public TV. We, the public, depend on you to guard us from unwanted nudity entering our homes. A disclaimer at the beginning (if there was one) and a letter on screen from time to time does not warn us.

I speak specifically of the showing of "Schindler's List" in its unedited version. Many of us do not bother to go to the movies these days, for the reason that we never know what we will see. We wait purposely until the "edited for TV" version because we will be able to watch (with a few exceptions) without being offended, or worrying what our children will see.

Are decent people with morals going to have to get rid of our T.V.'s while "the rest of the crowd" is catered to? Please help us keep decency on our airwaves + indecency off. I appeal to you to restore some sense of morality to the public airwaves coming into our homes. What can I do?

Sincerely,
Hallie J. Newton

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